NO. 14

ADVENTURES INTO TERROR

10¢

SHUDDER AS YOU READ... "THE HANDS!"

TALES OF TERROR!

ATLAS

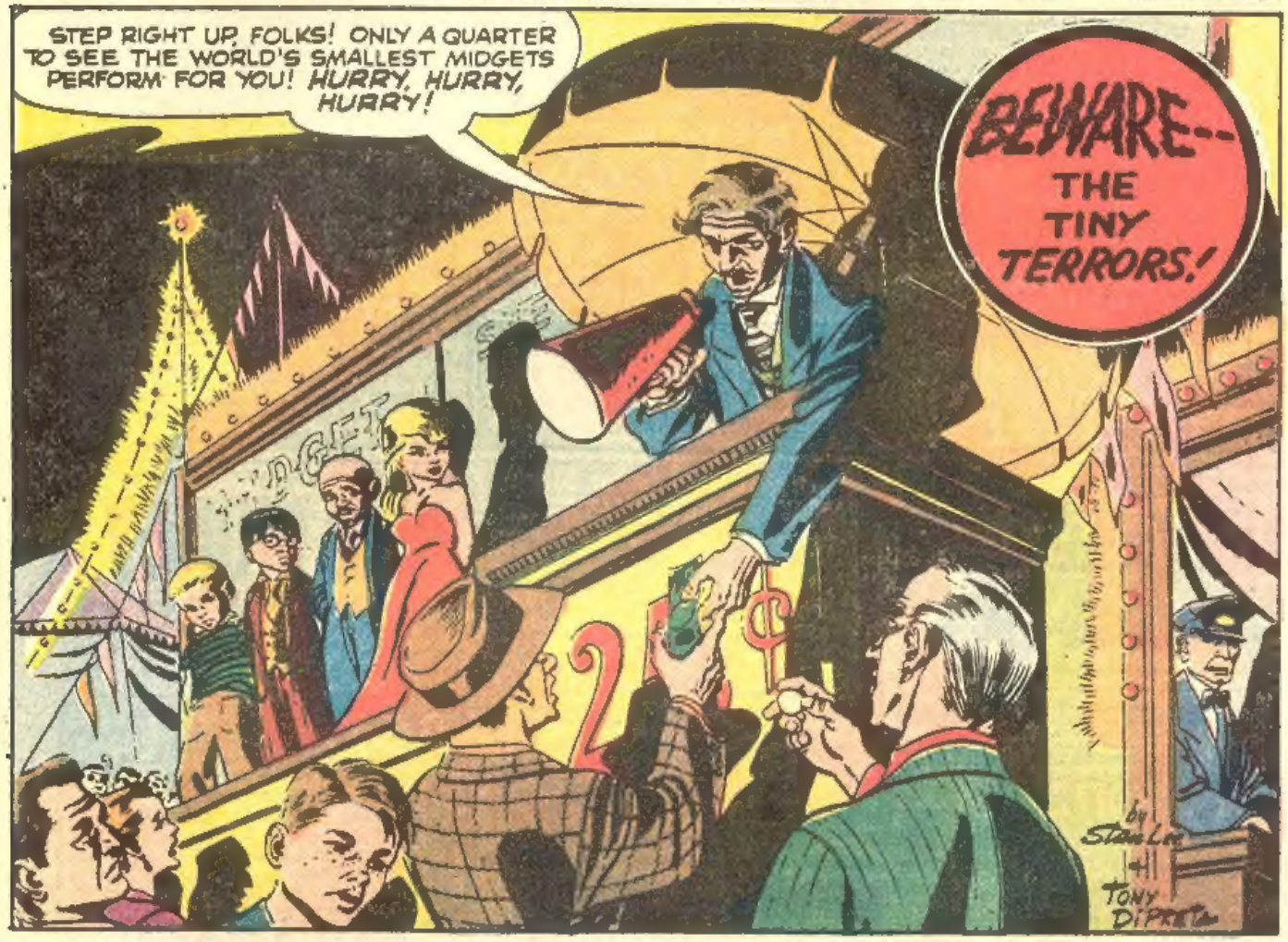
ALSO

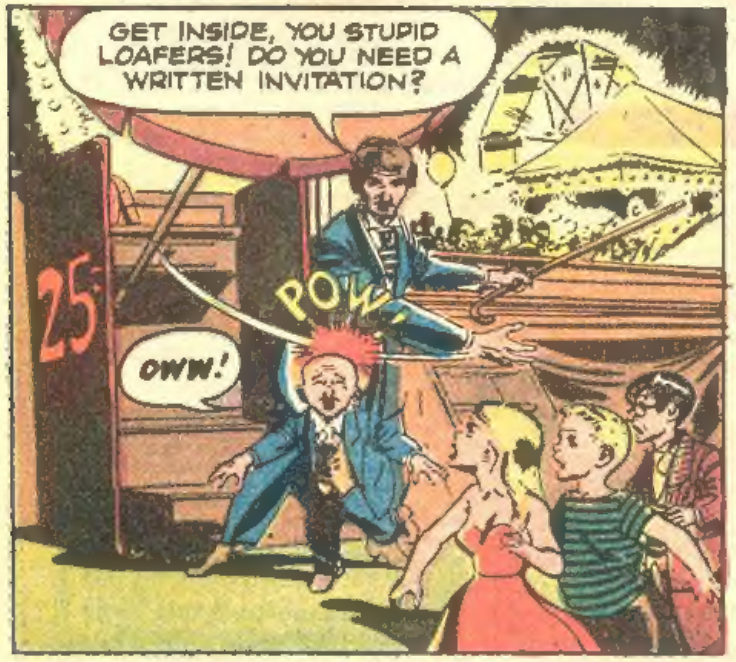
"NEX!"

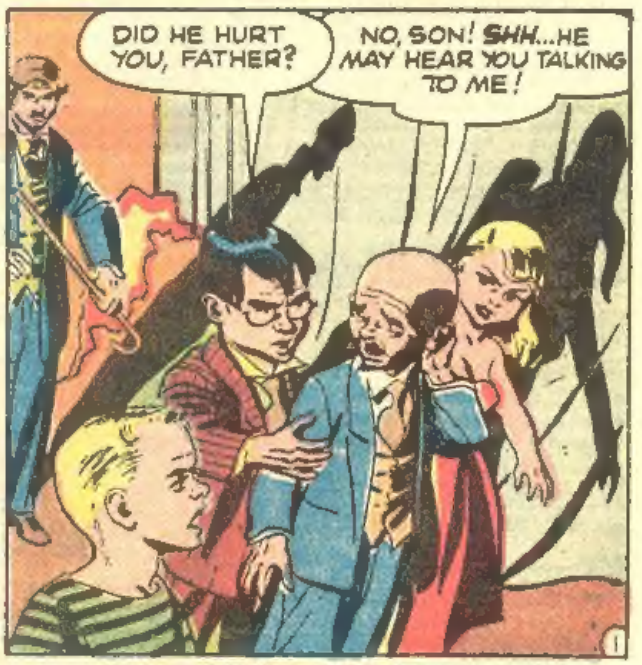
"THEY'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY!"

"THE LITTLE PEOPLE!"

THE LITTLE PEOPLE


STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS! ONLY A QUARTER TO SEE THE WORLD'S SMALLEST MIDGETS PERFORM FOR YOU! HURRY, HURRY, HURRY!
BEWARE-- THE TINY TERRORS!
by Stan Lee + Tony DiPreta





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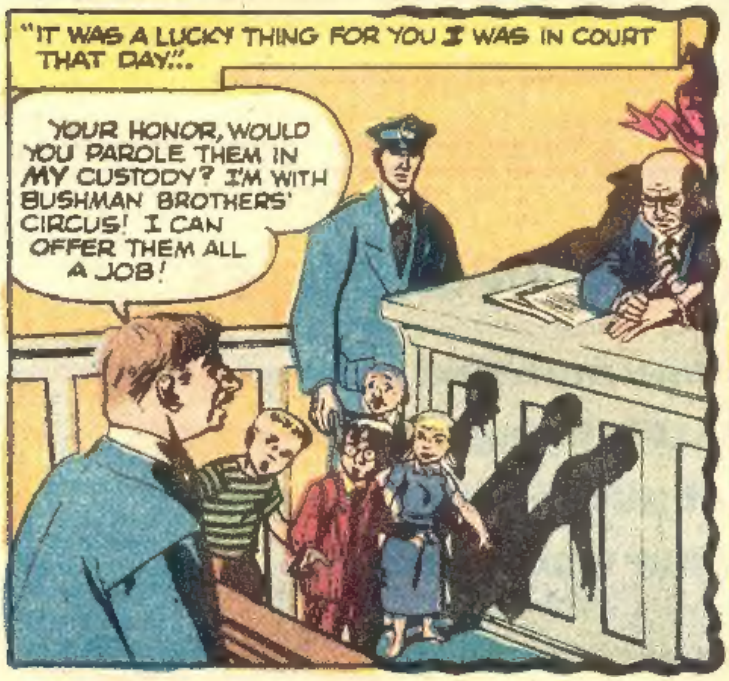
I'VE WARNED YOU NEVER TO SPEAK TO EACH OTHER DURING PERFORMANCES!
OWW! MY BACK!
WHACK!
AND NOW, FOLKS, FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT, HERE THEY ARE...THE LITTLE LEWIS FAMILY!
LAURA LEWIS, THE TINIEST TOE DANCER IN THE WORLD!
LON LEWIS..OWNER OF THE WORLD'S FASTEST HANDS! FASTER THAN THE HUMAN EYE!
NOW WATCH THE CARDS CAREFULLY!
SILAS LEWIS...WORLD'S SMALLEST ANIMAL TRAINER!
UP, SPOTTY!
AND TIM LEWIS, THE SMALLEST TIGHTROPE WALKER IN AMERICA!
BOY! THEY'RE GREAT!
BUT LOOK HOW SCARED THEY ARE OF THAT BARKER!
BAH! IT'S JUST PROBABLY PART OF THE ACT!
WHEW! I'M GLAD THAT'S OVER!
ME TOO, SIS!
ALL OF YOU...GET BACK TO YOUR TENT! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
2

WHAT CAN BE WRONG?
I DUNNO.. BUT HE SURE LOOKED ANGRY!
I HOPE HE WON'T BEAT YOU AGAIN!
LISTEN TO ME, ALL OF YOU! I DON'T LIKE YOUR ACT! IT'S GETTING DULL! YOU BETTER STAY IN AND REHEARSE FOR THE NEXT FEW NIGHTS!
BUT WE WERE GOING TO A MOVIE TONIGHT!
I'VE TOLD YOU NEVER TO TALK BACK TO ME!
WAP!
YOU CAN'T HIT LON LIKE THAT!
I CAN'T, EH?
WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE ME HIT HIM LIKE THIS?
OWW!
THUD!
IF YOU GIVE ME ANY MORE TROUBLE, I'LL THROW THE WHOLE LOT OF YOU IN JAIL! AND YOU KNOW I CAN DO IT, TOO!
YES...WE KNOW!

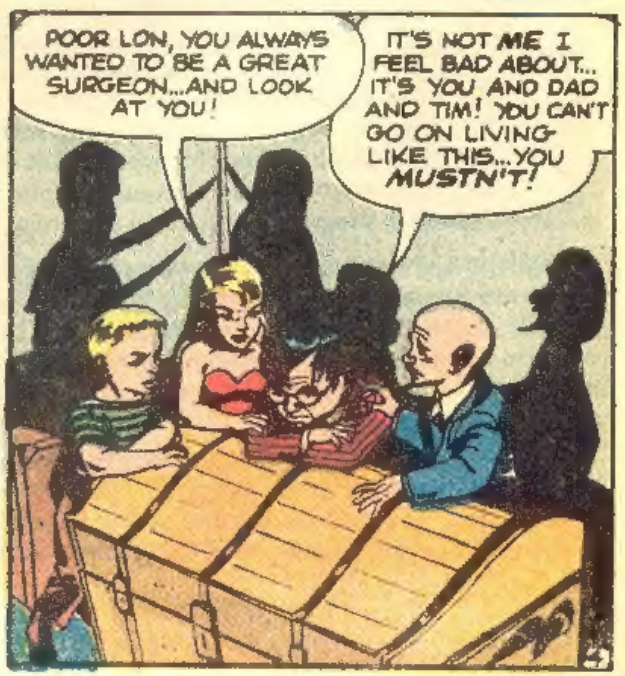
"DON'T FORGET I PAID LON'S BAIL WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED FOR PRACTICING MEDICINE WITHOUT A LICENSE!"
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST! YOU CAN'T OPERATE WITHOUT A LICENSE!
BUT I'M ONLY TRYING TO LOCATE THE GROWTH GLANDS TO MAKE US TALLER!

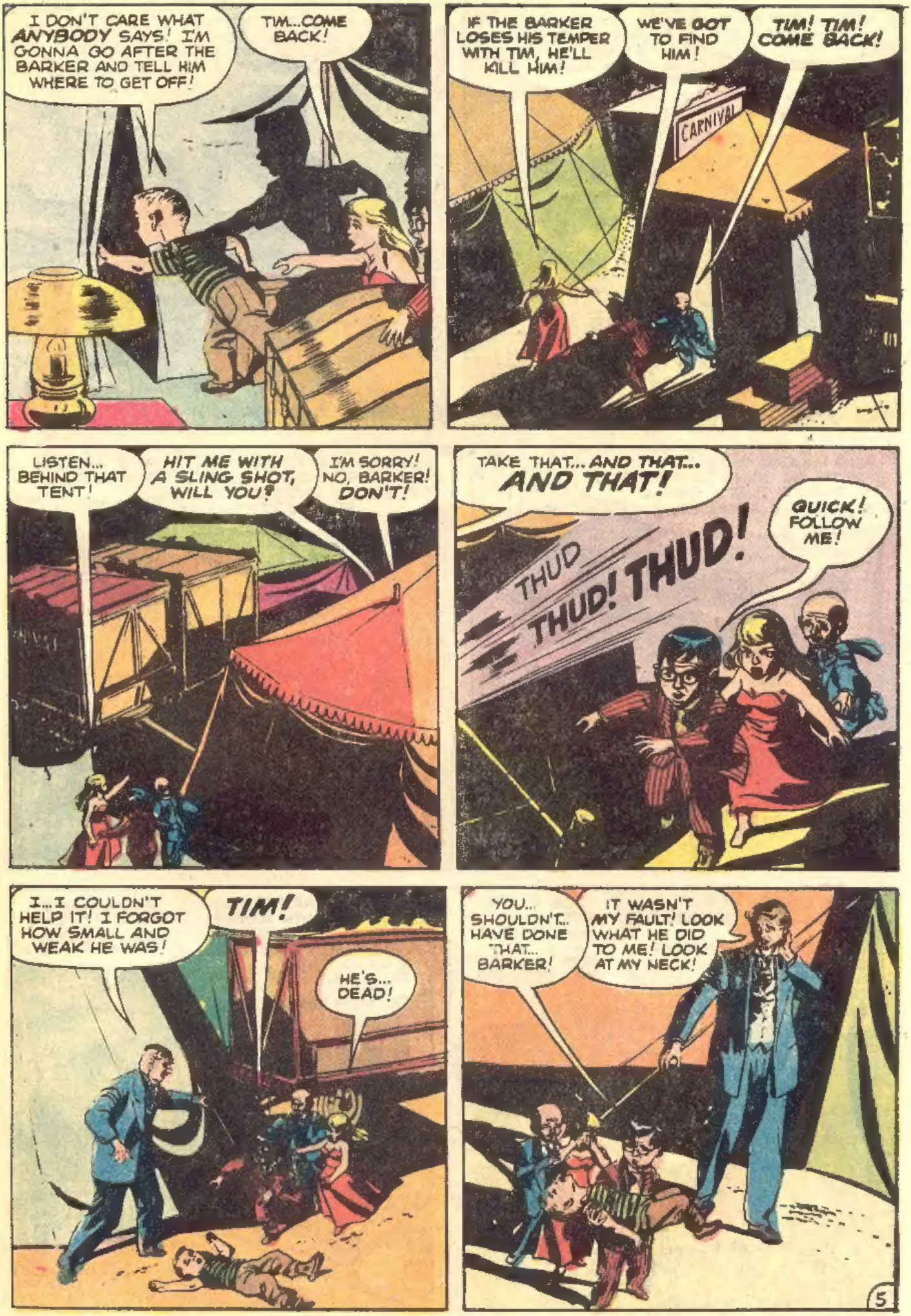
I'M SORRY FOR ALL OF YOU BUT I CAN'T ALLOW UNLICENSED SURGERY!
BUT I'VE STUDIED MEDICINE... AND I HAVE A SURGEON'S HANDS! I KNEW WHAT I WAS DOING!


"IT WAS A LUCKY THING FOR YOU I WAS IN COURT THAT DAY..."
YOUR HONOR, WOULD YOU PAROLE THEM IN MY CUSTODY? I'M WITH BUSHMAN BROTHERS' CIRCUS! I CAN OFFER THEM ALL A JOB!

AND NOW I'VE GOT YOU TIED TO THIS IRON CLAD CONTRACT.. AND IF YOU EVER BREAK IT... IT'S BACK TO JAIL FOR YOU!
WE WON'T BREAK IT!

NOW STAY IN AND PRACTICE ALL NIGHT!
SPLAP!


POOR LON, YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A GREAT SURGEON...AND LOOK AT YOU!
IT'S NOT ME I FEEL BAD ABOUT... IT'S YOU AND DAD AND TIM! YOU CAN'T GO ON LIVING LIKE THIS...YOU MUSTN'T!


I DON'T CARE WHAT ANYBODY SAYS! I'M GONNA GO AFTER THE BARKER AND TELL HIM WHERE TO GET OFF!
TIM...COME BACK!
IF THE BARKER LOSES HIS TEMPER WITH TIM, HE'LL KILL HIM!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!
TIM! TIM! COME BACK!
CARNIVAL
LISTEN... BEHIND THAT TENT!
HIT ME WITH A SLING SHOT, WILL YOU?
I'M SORRY! NO, BARKER! DON'T!
TAKE THAT... AND THAT... AND THAT!
THUD
THUD! THUD!
QUICK! FOLLOW ME!
I...I COULDN'T HELP IT! I FORGOT HOW SMALL AND WEAK HE WAS!
TIM!
HE'S... DEAD!
YOU... SHOULDN'T... HAVE DONE THAT... BARKER!
IT WASN'T MY FAULT! LOOK WHAT HE DID TO ME! LOOK AT MY NECK!
5

LET ME SEE YOUR NECK, BARKER!
WH...WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME THAT WAY FOR?
OH...IT'S SCRATCHED UP! TOO BAD!
I'M GOING TO FIX YOUR NECK! HERE, JUST TAKE A SMELL OF THIS CHLOROFORM!
NO... I DON'T WANT TO... NO... NO... NO...
HOLD HIM, DAD, WHILE I GO GET SPOTTY! I'M GOING TO PROVE TO THE BARKER THAT I SHOULD HAVE BEEN A SURGEON!
H...HOW?
I'M GOING TO PERFORM AN OPERATION NEVER BEFORE PERFORMED! BUT I'LL NEED SPOTTY TO HELP!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, LON?
A WEEK LATER...
TIM WOULD BE PROUD OF US IF HE COULD SEE US NOW!
WHEREVER HE IS...I'M SURE HE'S LOOKING!
ALL RIGHT, FOLKS...HURRY... HURRY...HURRY!
...SEE THE BARKER...THE ONLY DOG-MAN IN THE WORLD! BARK, YOU MANGY MUTT, BEFORE I CALL THE DOG CATCHER!
RROWFF! RROWF!
THE END

the HANDS!

EVERY TIME I LOOK AT THESE THINGS, I SEE WHAT I AM -- A FREAK! A MISERABLE, HIDEOUS FREAK!
Gene Colan

THE TORMENT THAT OVERCAME ME WAS MORE THAN I COULD BEAR! IT WASN'T A NEW FEELING... BUT EACH TIME I LOOKED DOWN AT THOSE UGLY CLAWS I HAD FOR HANDS, I HATED EVERYTHING MORE AND MORE...
I CAN'T GO ON THIS WAY! MAYBE THE REST OF YOU DON'T CARE, BUT I WON'T GO BACK TO THE SIDE SHOW! I'LL LIVE HERE AT THE CLUB! I CAN'T STAND TO HAVE PEOPLE GAWK AT ME!
GARY, YOU'VE GOT TO GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF! THE REST OF US SUFFER THE SAME WAY YOU DO...BUT IT WON'T ALWAYS BE THIS WAY!

GET A GRIP ON MYSELF? WHY SHOULD I? I HATE THIS LIFE SO MUCH THAT IT'S RIPPING ME APART! SOMETHING INSIDE ME CHURNS WHEN I SEE THOSE PEOPLE LOOKING UP AT ME AND LAUGHING AT THE FREAK... FREAK!!

I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A MEMORY OF WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO BE A CHILD...ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE, I HAD *AMNESIA!* THE FIRST THING I COULD RECALL OF MY LIFE WAS THE GUTTER WHERE I WOKE UP ONE NIGHT...

WHAT TH--? WHERE AM I??...I--I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING...I DON'T KNOW I AM OR *WHAT* I'M DOING HERE!

BAR

THE FIRST CONTACT I HAD WITH OTHER HUMAN BEINGS WAS THE SHRIEK OF SURPRISE WHEN THEY SAW MY CLAWS AND THE LAUGHTER RESERVED FOR THE FREAK!

EEEEEEKKKK! HIS HANDS... LOOK AT 'EM... HE'S GOT *CLAWS!*

HAHAHA! PROBABLY A FREAK FROM THE CIRCUS, OUT ON A DRINKING SPREE! DOESN'T HE LOOK *RIDICULOUS?*

GIVE IT TO HIM! I NEVER LIKED FREAKS, ANYWAY!!

LOOK OUT FOR HIS *CLAWS!*

HA, HA! LOOKIT HIM ALL COVERED WITH MUD!

SOCK

SMACK

HEE, HEE! I NEVER SAW ANYTHING SO FUNNY IN ALL MY *LIFE!*

LOOK AT HIM RUN! IT'S A GOOD THING HE DOESN'T HAVE CLAWS ON HIS FEET OR HE'D NEVER GET AWAY!

I HAD NO MEMORY OF ANYTHING BEFORE THAT...MY VERY FIRST *THOUGHTS* AND MY *HATRED* TOWARD THE WORLD WAS BORN IN THAT GUTTER! THE ONLY JOB I COULD GET, OF COURSE, WAS IN A CARNIVAL *SIDE SHOW...*

STEP RIGHT UP AND SEE THE MAN WITH CLAWS... THEY'RE REAL! THEY SNAP! ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO ANYONE WHO CAN PROVE IT'S A FRAUD! HURRY! HURRY! *HURRY!*

SIDE SHOW

IT WAS SOON AFTER I GOT THE JOB THAT I DISCOVERED THERE WERE OTHERS LIKE MYSELF... AND THAT THEY HAD ORGANIZED A SOCIAL CLUB THAT I COULD JOIN...BUT NOW I HAD DECIDED I DIDN'T WANT TO GO ON LIVING!

I'M GOING TO *KILL* MYSELF! I WANT TO *DIE!*

STOP, YOU FOOL! THAT'S NO WAY OUT!
WAIT...THINGS WILL WORK OUT ALL RIGHT...ONCE YOU TAKE A STEP LIKE YOU WANT TO TAKE, IT'S TOO LATE TO TURN BACK!

BUT I CAN'T STAND IT ANY LONGER! I WANT TO DIE--LET ME DIE!
WAIT, GARY! THERE'S SOMETHING WE'VE NEVER TOLD YOU BUT JUST WAIT UNTIL YOUR TWENTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY! SOMETHING WILL CHANGE YOU BACK TO NORMAL...DON'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL THEN!

BUT DEEP INSIDE MY MIND THE IDEA OF BECOMING NORMAL KEPT CHURNING AROUND, UNTIL FINALLY, ON MY WAY HOME, A THOUGHT SUDDENLY HIT ME...
IT'S POSSIBLE! I COULD BECOME NORMAL! PLASTIC SURGERY COULD MAKE ME A NEW PAIR OF HANDS!

I WASTED NO TIME, BUT HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE BEST PLASTIC SURGEON IN TOWN... MY HOPES SOARED AS WE SPOKE... UNTIL HE MENTIONED THE PRICE OF THE OPERATION...
TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS? BUT--BUT I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO GET THAT KIND OF MONEY! COULDN'T YOU MAKE IT LESS?
I'M SORRY, MR. BIRCH...I'M SURE I COULD PERFORM A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION THAT WOULD GIVE YOU A NORMAL PAIR OF HANDS... BUT THAT'S THE COST-- TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS!
DR. EMANUEL PLASTIC SURGEON

I SOON REALIZED THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY FOR ME TO GET THE MONEY AND THAT STARTED ME ON A CAREER OF CRIME...
BLAM!

IT WAS ONLY A SHORT STEP FROM STEALING TO BURGLARY...
ATLAS JEWELRY CO.
CRASH
TINKLE!

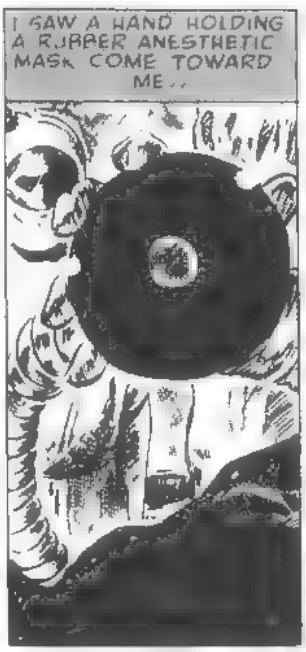
AND TO A HOLD UP...

...THAT ENDED IN MURDER!

AT THE CLUB, WHEN THE OTHERS LEARNED THAT I WAS GOING TO HAVE AN OPERATION, THEY TRIED TO STOP ME... TO TALK ME OUT OF IT...
GARY, YOU'VE GOT TO WAIT! DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH!--AFTER YOUR TWENTY FIFTH BIRTHDAY EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT! WAIT!
WAIT?? I'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH TO BE NORMAL... AND I DON'T BELIEVE YOUR FAIRY TALE ABOUT CHANGING ON MY BIRTHDAY!

I HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE AND GAVE HIM THE MONEY I HAD STOLEN AND MURDERED FOR...
HERE IT IS --$2000! AND I'D LIKE TO HAVE THE OPERATION DONE RIGHT AWAY!
ALL RIGHT MR BIRCH! I THINK WE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH A NICE NEW PAIR OF HANDS!

THE OPERATING ROOM WAS A BARE, STERILE CHAMBER, AND SOON ALL I COULD SEE WERE THE MASKED FACES OF THE SURGEONS STANDING OVER ME...


I SAW A HAND HOLDING A RUBBER ANESTHETIC MASK COME TOWARD ME...

AS HE BROUGHT IT CLOSER, I NOTICED THE STRONG PUNGENT SMELL THAT WOULD SOON PUT ME TO SLEEP

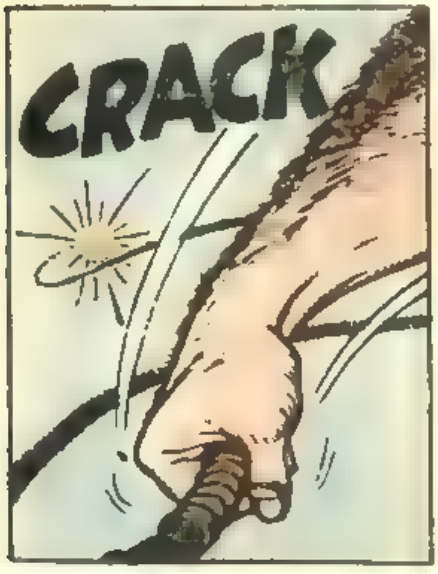
THEY PRESSED IT TO MY NOSE... AND THEN EVERYTHING GREW

AFTER TWO WEEKS IN THE HOSPITAL I WAS ALLOWED TO GO HOME ON MY BIRTHDAY. THE DOCTOR SAID IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT TO REMOVE THE BANDAGES THEN...
GARY, WE TRIED TO WARN YOU... IT'LL BE MIDNIGHT SOON... YOUR BIRTHDAY! BUT IT'S ALSO A SPECIAL OCCASION THAT WE COULDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT BEFORE.
BAH! YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS, ALL OF YOU KNOW THAT I'M GOING TO BE NORMAL AND YOU ENVY ME!

BUT I DON'T CARE WHAT ALL OF YOU SAY! I'M GLAD I DID IT... NOW I'LL TAKE OFF THE BANDAGES AND SEE MY NEW PAIR OF HANDS!

I TREMBLED AS I
THE ADHESIVE TAPE
UNWINDING THE LONG
I COULD HAVE SHRIEKED
TWO SLENDER, NORMAL
YOU SEE? SEE, YOU FOOLS, I'M NORMAL! AND YOU'RE JUST A BUNCH OF FREAKS WHO DON'T HAVE THE NERVE TO DO THE SAME! YOU'RE JUST FREAKS!
WE TRIED TO WARN YOU, GARY! BUT NOW IT'S TOO LATE! THE CLOCK IS STRIKING MIDNIGHT, AND THIS IS THE DAY WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR...
WHAT--?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? - GREAT SCOTT! WHAT'S HAPPENING? NO--NO! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
YES, GARY, AND NOW IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU, TOO!
SUDDENLY I REMEMBERED! MY MEMORY CAME BACK TO ME AND I KNEW WHAT I WAS!
WELL, YOU IDIOT! WE TRIED TO WARN YOU! WHO'S A FREAK NOW?!!
FIN

SOMEWHERE, ON A BRAZILIAN COFFEE PLANTATION, AN ARM DEALS OUT CRUEL, VICIOUS BLOWS AGAIN AND AGAIN...



AND THE STEAMING, FETID AIR OF THE JUNGLE IS RENT WITH THE PITIFUL, NEAR-UNCONSCIOUS CRIES OF THE HELPLESS VICTIM...A NATIVE LABORER...

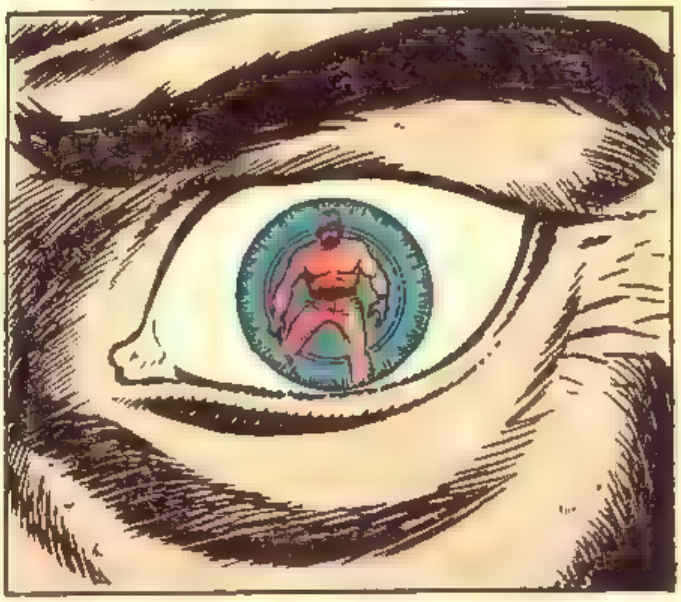
SUDDENLY FROM A GROUP OF HORRIFIED ONLOOKERS, JOHN-JOHNS, THE FOREMAN, RUSHES FORWARD...

HEX!

THIS BOY, SENOR, IS VERY SICK! MAYBE HE DIE LIKE OTHERS.. MAYBE NOW GOOD TIME TO ASK GODS OF OUR FATHERS TO CURSE YOUR BONES WITH THE WEAKNESS OF WATER!
BEWARE THE CURSE OF THE GODS!

ART BY: GEORGE TUSKA

JOHN-JOHNS DOESN'T ANSWER, BUT HIS STEELY EYES STARE BACK FROM THE COLD, IMPASSIVE EXPRESSION OF CONTROLLED HATE!



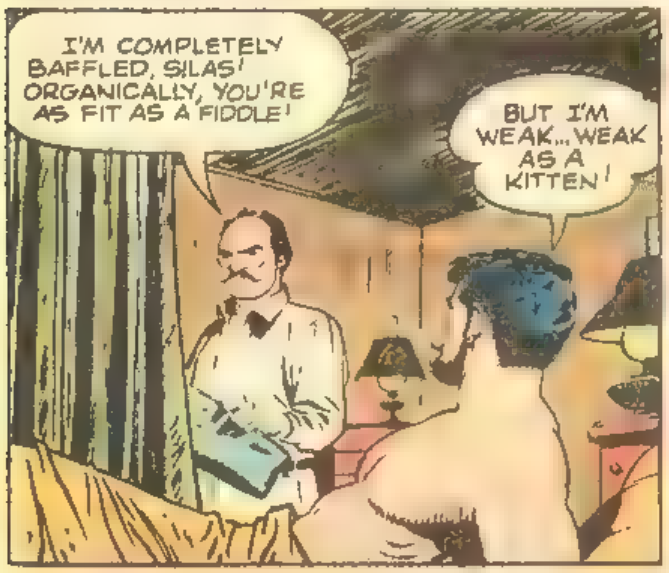
WHADDA YUH BIRDS HANGING AROUND FOR...CHRISTMAS, MAYBE? OR MAYBE YUH WANT SOME OF THIS WHIP TONIC! BACK TO WORK!
S...SI, SENOR MASTER!

THE CRUEL, UNWARRANTED BEATING...AN ANGRY CURSE...JUST ANOTHER INCIDENT AMONG COUNTLESS SIMILAR INCIDENTS, OR WAS IT? FOR THE NEXT MORNING...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

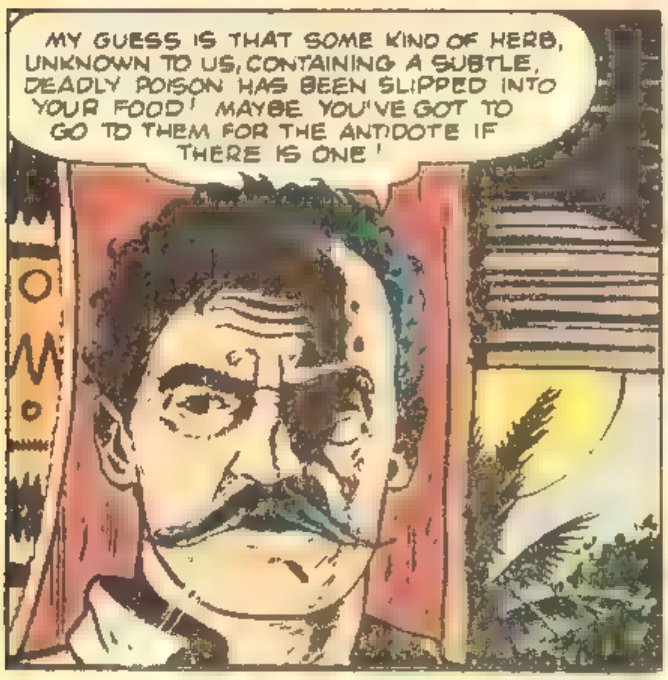
JUST A TOUCH OF STOMACH TROUBLE, THINKS SILAS BLACKWELL! STRANGELY ENOUGH, UNDER THE WHITE, HOT SUN OF HIGH NOON THE FOLLOW NG DAY, HE FEELS.. WELL, AS F HIS BONES WERE MADE OF WATER.

BY NIGHTFALL SILAS KNOWS THE PANIC, THE SICK HELPLESSNESS OF HAVING TO COPE WITH SOMETHING UNKNOWN! AND THEN, IN THE SWEAT OF TERROR, HE LISTENS TO A SKILLED PHYSICIAN SAY...

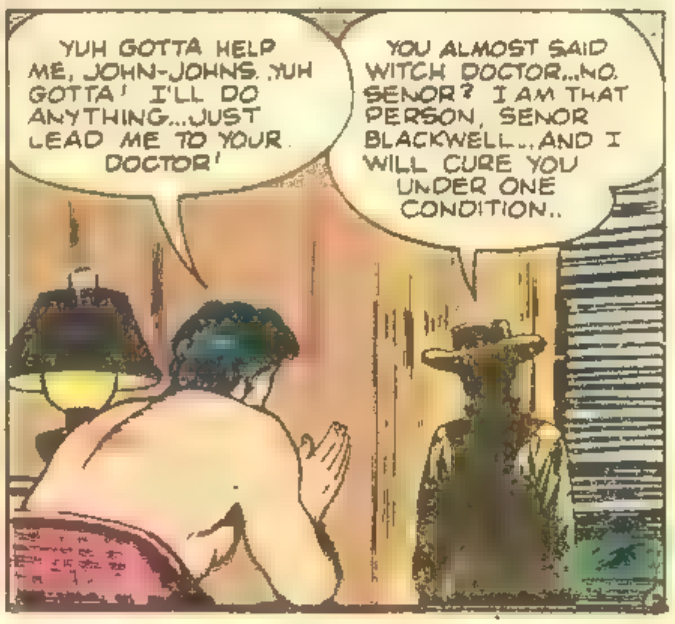


WEAK . . WEAK ... THE WORDS RING A BELL! ALMOST EMBARRASSED, SILAS RELATES THE INCIDENT OF THE HEX ..

IT AIN'T THAT I BELIEVE IN THIS HOCUS POCUS MALARKY, DOC! BELIEVE ME IT'S JUST...
IT'S JUST YOUR ONE CHANCE, SILAS! THESE INDIANS HAVE A LOT OF SCIENTIFIC, BASIC FACTS BEHIND THEIR MUMBO JUMBO TACTICS!

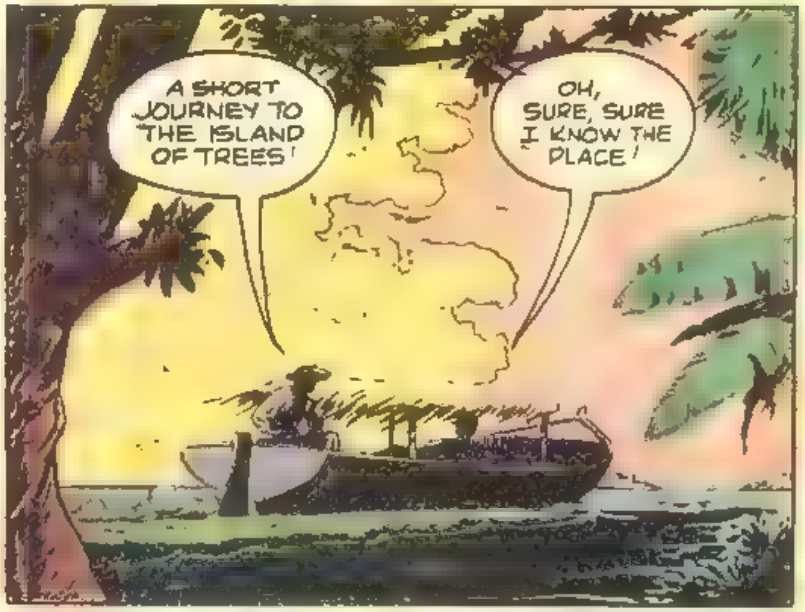

MY GUESS IS THAT SOME KIND OF HERB, UNKNOWN TO US, CONTAINING A SUBTLE, DEADLY POISON HAS BEEN SLIPPED INTO YOUR FOOD! MAYBE YOU'VE GOT TO GO TO THEM FOR THE ANTIDOTE IF THERE IS ONE!

THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN SILAS CAN TURN TO.. AND THE ROLES OF MASTER AND SUBJECT ARE SWIFTLY CHANGED!

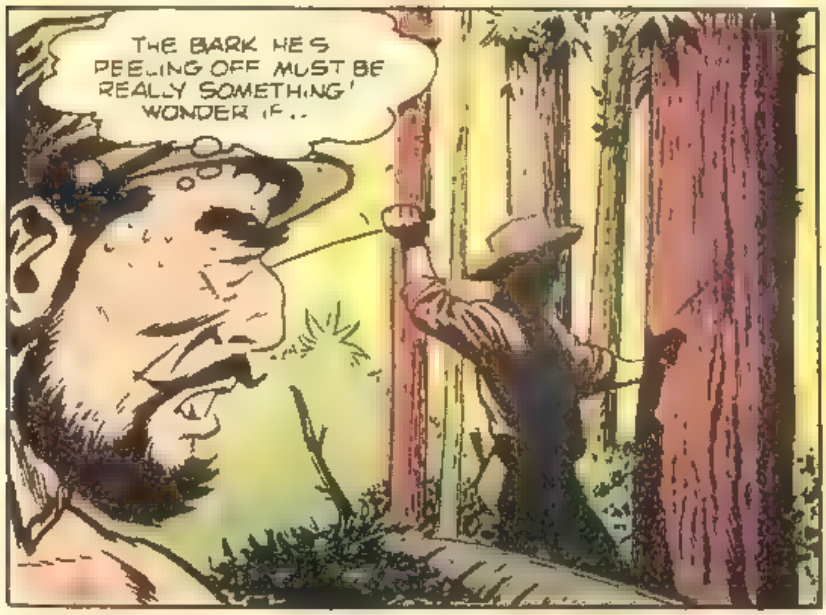

YUH GOTTA HELP ME, JOHN-JOHNS. YUH GOTTA! I'LL DO ANYTHING... JUST LEAD ME TO YOUR DOCTOR!
YOU ALMOST SAID WITCH DOCTOR... NO, SENOR? I AM THAT PERSON, SENOR BLACKWELL.. AND I WILL CURE YOU UNDER ONE CONDITION..

IT'S NOT FOR MYSELF I ASK SENOR! IT'S FOR MY PEOPLE! WOULD YOU TREAT THEM AS MEN IF I HEAL YOUR SICKNESS? NO MORE BEATINGS, NO MORE BRUTALITY AND LONG ACHING HOURS WITH LITTLE FOOD!
I..I PROMISE.. PROMISE ANYTHING!

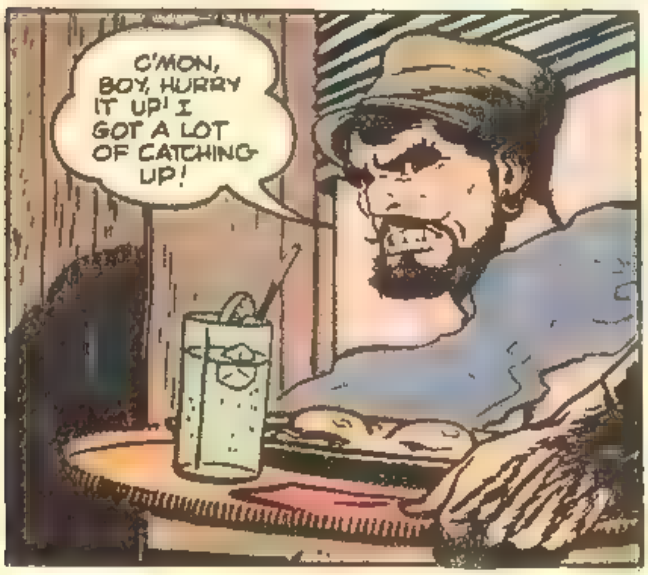
WILD ELATION AND HOPE SURGES THROUGH SILAS AS HIS GUIDE SILENTLY LEADS HIM TO THE DENSE JUNGLE...



AND LATER IN A STYGIAN CATHEDRAL OF STATELY TREES, JOHN-JOHNS SEARCHES, FINALLY PAUSES...



SLY, CUNNING, PLANNING NEW EXPLOITATIONS EVEN AS THE INDIAN DEMONSTRATES BROTHERHOOD! THE ANTIDOTE? BITTER BUT MIRACULOUS AND THE FOLLOWING MORNING..

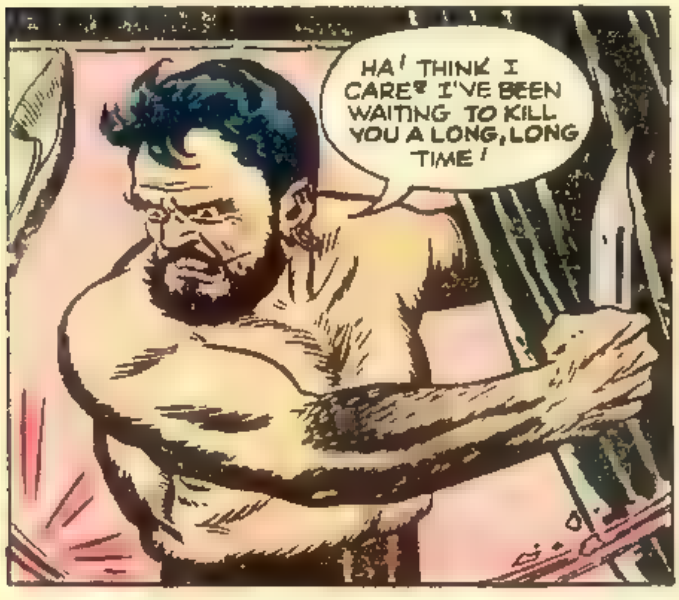


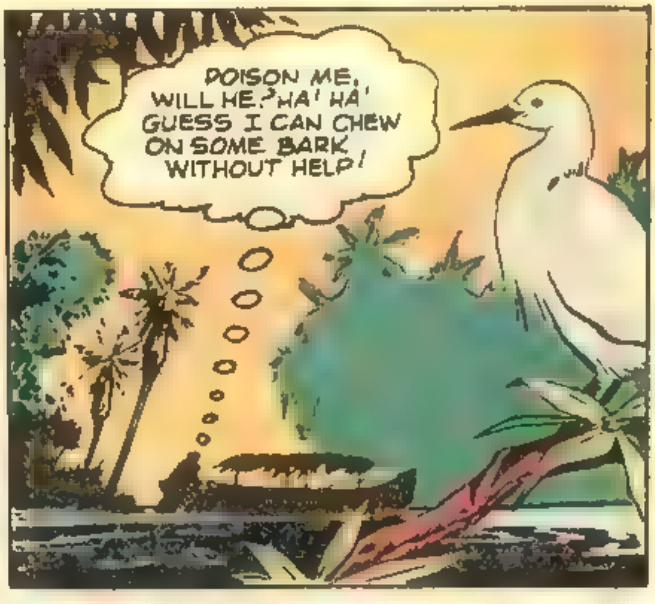
STRANGE, THE WAYS OF MEN! IF YOU CAN CALL SILAS BLACKWELL A MAN! FOR NOW, COMPLETELY RESTORED

FUNNY HOW EASY IT IS TO BE BLIND WITH EVIL AND GREED! FOR SILAS HAS REVERTED TO THE OLD WAYS COMPLETELY! AND THERE'S ONE MORE FAMILIAR SCENE...

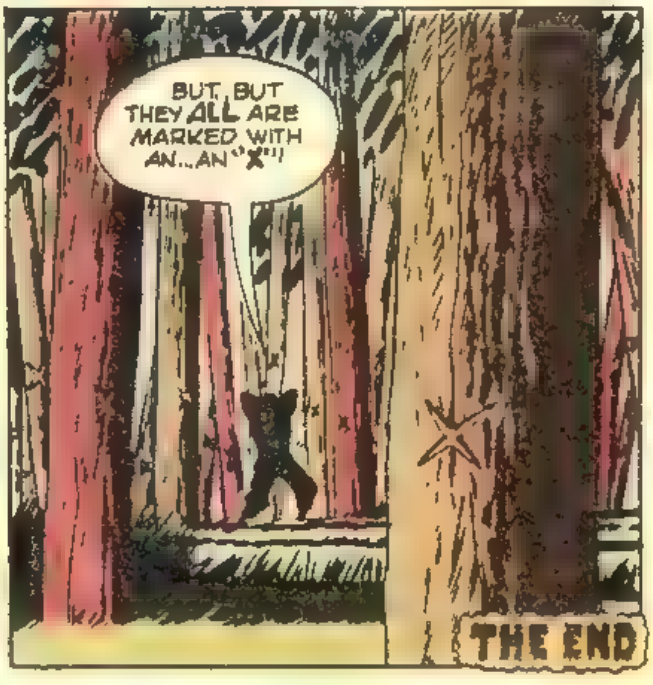
ONE LOOK AT JOHN-JOHNS' EYES...AND SILAS CRAFTILY REACHES FOR HIS KNIFE! THE INDIAN IS STUBBORN, ADAMANT BUT SO WHAT.

HILARIOUS WITH FEVER AND REVENGE, SILAS LAUGHS AND LURCHES TOWARD THE RIVER'S EDGE! HE STARTS THE MOTOR...

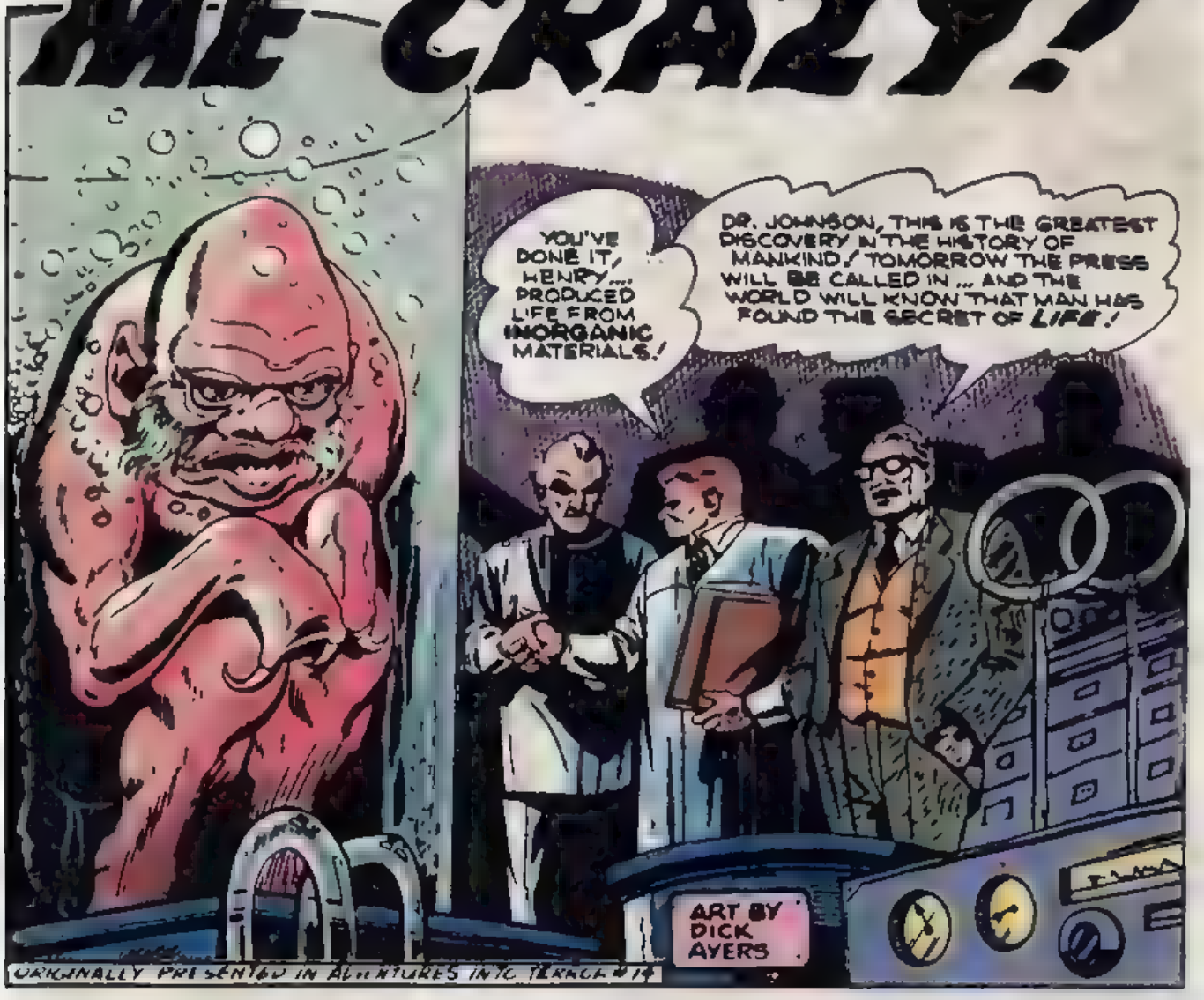




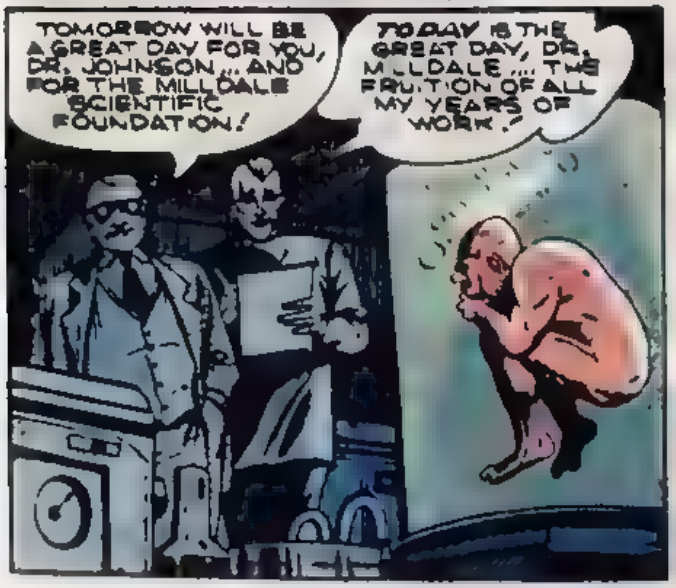
THE ISLAND OF TREES! AND NOW TO FIND THE *TREE OF LIFE*...



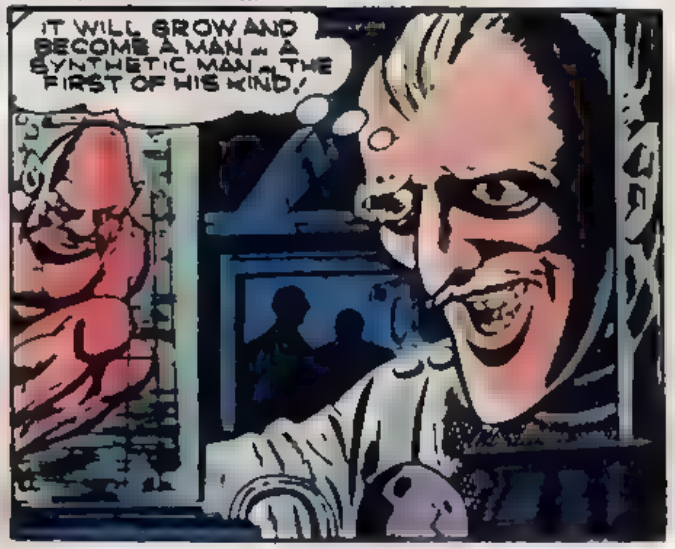
THEY'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY!


YOU'VE DONE IT, HENRY.... PRODUCED LIFE FROM INORGANIC MATERIALS!
DR. JOHNSON, THIS IS THE GREATEST DISCOVERY IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND! TOMORROW THE PRESS WILL BE CALLED IN ... AND THE WORLD WILL KNOW THAT MAN HAS FOUND THE SECRET OF LIFE!
ART BY DICK AYERS
ORIGINALLY PRESENTED IN ADVENTURES INTO TERROR #14

THEY NEVER THOUGHT HE COULD DO IT! NOW THEY STAND IN AWE BEFORE THE TINY HUMAN HE HAS CREATED FROM LIFELESS MATTER!


TOMORROW WILL BE A GREAT DAY FOR YOU, DR. JOHNSON ... AND FOR THE MILLDALE SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION!
TODAY IS THE GREAT DAY, DR. MILLDALE .... THE FRUITION OF ALL MY YEARS OF WORK!

DR. JOHNSON'S COLLEAGUE, PAUL ERSKINE, AND DR. MILLDALE, DIRECTOR OF THE FOUNDATION, ARE VERY PLEASED AND THEY LEAVE HURRIEDLY TO SPREAD THE NEWS TO THE WORLD ...



THE NEXT DAY HENRY JOHNSON THINKS OF THE FAME AND HONOR WHICH WILL BE BESTOWED UPON HIM AS HE K SSES HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN GOODBYE ....!

GOODBYE, HENRY.! TRY TO GET HOME BEFORE DINNER IS COLD.! I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT KEEPS YOU AT THE FOUNDATION SO LATE.!

ALL RIGHT, DEAR.!

TODAY IS THE BIG DAY... THE DAY WHEN THE WORLD WILL KNOW THAT HENRY JOHNSON HAS FOUND THE SECRET OF LIFE.!

'BYE, DADDY.!

TODAY MILLIE WILL FIND OUT WHAT KEEPS ME SO LATE AT THE FOUNDATION.! I WONDER WHETHER SHE'LL SEE ME IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT THEN... OR IF I'LL STILL BE HER MIDDLE-AGED HUSBAND AS ALWAYS.!

SO HENRY MUSES AS HE WALKS TO THE FOUNDATION, ENJOYING HIS LAST MOMENTS OF NONENTITY!

SOON EVERYONE WILL RECOGNIZE ME.! I DON'T THINK I'LL LIKE THAT.! IT'S MY WORK THAT COUNTS, NOT ME.! I WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE TO GO DEEPER INTO THIS STUDY....!

HA.! I'M BEGINNING TO ACT LIKE THE ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR... ALMOST WALKED INTO THIS APARTMENT HOUSE INSTEAD OF THE FOUNDATION.! MUST HAVE GONE UP THE WRONG STREET....!

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THAT'S ODD.! CHERRY AND PINE STREETS.... SAME CORNER AS THE FOUNDATION IS ON.! THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS THE SAME, TOO... BUT I DON'T EVER REMEMBER SEEING THE APARTMENT HOUSE BUILDING HERE.!

CHERRY

PINE

THE BUILDING NUMBER IS THE SAME AS THE FOUNDATION'S, TOO.! I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT... SOMETHING'S VERY QUEER.!

YOU LOOKIN' FOR SOMETHING, MISTER?

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THIS BUILDING... I DON'T EVER REMEMBER SEEING IT IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD BEFORE.! UNLESS I'VE GOTTEN LOST SOMEHOW, IT SEEMS TO ME THE MILLDALE SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION SHOULD BE HERE....!

THAT'S RIGHT, MISTER... THE FOUNDATION BUILDING USED TO BE HERE... UP UNTIL FOUR YEARS AGO, WHEN IT BLEW UP.!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

FOUR YEARS AGO? BLEW UP?
SURE! AFTER THEY CLEARED AWAY THE WRECKAGE, THEY BUILT THIS APARTMENT HOUSE!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO, CONFUSE ME? IS THIS SOME SORT OF GAG?
LOOK, MISTER, DON'T GET TOUGH! I TOLD YOU THE TRUTH!
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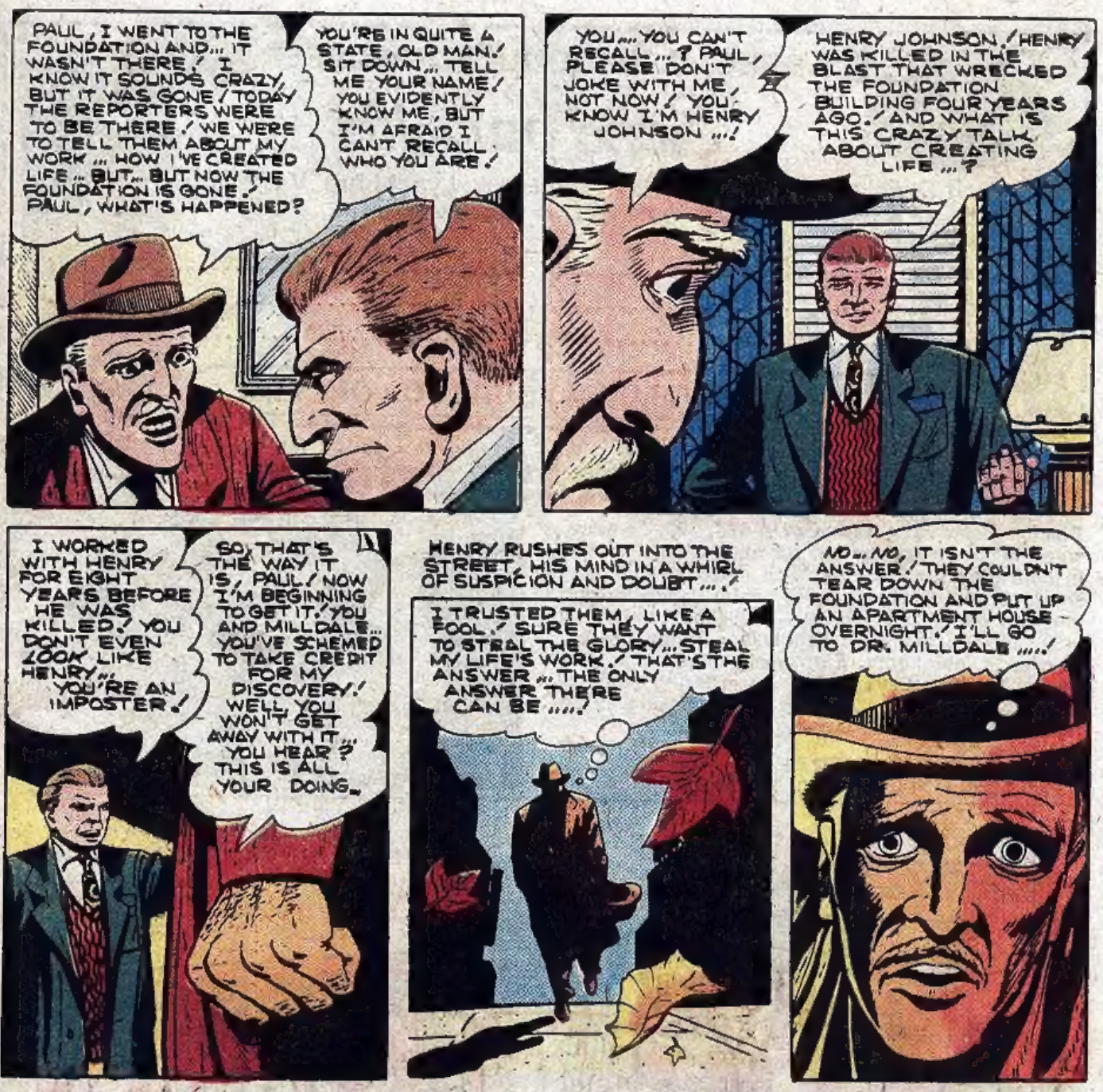
NOW BEAT IT, BEFORE I CALL THE COPS! THIS HERE IS A RESPECTABLE NEIGHBORHOOD!
FOUR YEARS? BLEW UP?
AM I OUT OF MY MIND? NO - NO, I'M SANE... I KNOW IT! BUT FOUR YEARS...! AND THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE... THE FOUNDATION BUILDING WAS ON THAT CORNER... IT WAS!
NEWSPAPERS
THE DATE...! LAST NIGHT IT WAS 1970... IF IT WAS LAST NIGHT! IF IT WAS REALLY FOUR YEARS AGO, IT WILL BE 1974!
NO! IT'S TODAY... 1970! I HAVEN'T BEEN ASLEEP OR WANDERING, OR OUT OF MY MIND FOR FOUR YEARS! THAT APARTMENT HOUSE - IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, BUT IT'S THERE!
PAUL ERSKINE... I'LL GO TO SEE PAUL! HE'S BEEN MY ASSISTANT FOR EIGHT YEARS! HE'LL SET ME STRAIGHT... HELP ME UNRAVEL THIS MESS! SOMEWHERE THERE'S BEEN A CRAZY MISTAKE...
TAXI!
BUS STOP
PAUL! I'M GLAD YOU'RE HOME! I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU.... I'M ALL UPSET!


PAUL, I WENT TO THE FOUNDATION AND... IT WASN'T THERE! I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT IT WAS GONE! TODAY THE REPORTERS WERE TO BE THERE! WE WERE TO TELL THEM ABOUT MY WORK ... HOW I'VE CREATED LIFE .. BUT... BUT NOW THE FOUNDATION IS GONE! PAUL, WHAT'S HAPPENED?
YOU'RE IN QUITE A STATE, OLD MAN! SIT DOWN ... TELL ME YOUR NAME! YOU EVIDENTLY KNOW ME, BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN'T RECALL WHO YOU ARE!
YOU ... YOU CAN'T RECALL ...? PAUL, PLEASE DON'T JOKE WITH ME, NOT NOW! YOU KNOW I'M HENRY JOHNSON ...!
HENRY JOHNSON! HENRY WAS KILLED IN THE BLAST THAT WRECKED THE FOUNDATION BUILDING FOUR YEARS AGO! AND WHAT IS THIS CRAZY TALK ABOUT CREATING LIFE ...?
I WORKED WITH HENRY FOR EIGHT YEARS BEFORE HE WAS KILLED! YOU DON'T EVEN LOOK LIKE HENRY ... YOU'RE AN IMPOSTER!
SO, THAT'S THE WAY IT IS, PAUL! NOW I'M BEGINNING TO GET IT! YOU AND MILLDALE ... YOU'VE SCHEMED TO TAKE CREDIT FOR MY DISCOVERY! WELL, YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT ... YOU HEAR? THIS IS ALL YOUR DOING.
HENRY RUSHES OUT INTO THE STREET, HIS MIND IN A WHIRL OF SUSPICION AND DOUBT ...!
I TRUSTED THEM, LIKE A FOOL! SURE THEY WANT TO STEAL THE GLORY ... STEAL MY LIFE'S WORK! THAT'S THE ANSWER ... THE ONLY ANSWER THERE CAN BE ....!
NO ... NO, IT ISN'T THE ANSWER! THEY COULDN'T TEAR DOWN THE FOUNDATION AND PUT UP AN APARTMENT HOUSE OVERNIGHT! I'LL GO TO DR. MILLDALE ....!
NO ... WHAT'S THE USE! HE'LL SAY THE SAME THINGS ... HENRY JOHNSON WAS KILLED IN THE BLAST THAT DEMOLISHED THE FOUNDATION BUILDING FOUR YEARS AGO! NOBODY EVER CREATED LIFE ... I DON'T EVEN LOOK LIKE HENRY JOHNSON!
AM I HENRY JOHNSON ... OR AM I SOME CRAZY MAN WHO THINKS HE IS? FOUR YEARS ... WHERE DID THEY GO SINCE LAST NIGHT ... OR WAS IT LAST NIGHT ... OR WAS IT IN SOME OTHER WORLD ...?
HOME ... I'LL GO HOME! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT BEFORE? MILLIE! AND THE KIDS ... THEY'LL KNOW WHO I AM! I'LL BE ABLE TO THINK THIS THING OUT AT HOME! SOMETHING'S WRONG ... VERY WRONG, AND I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS ....

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

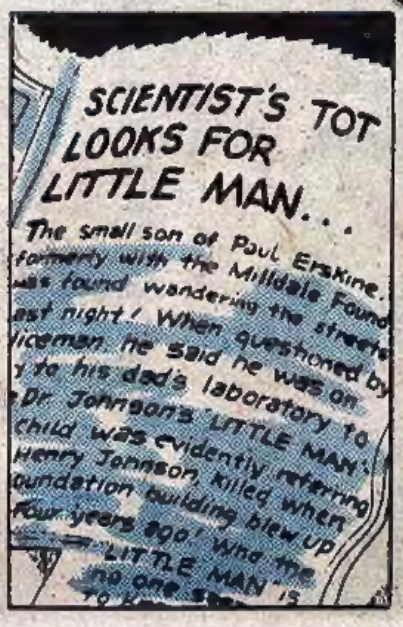
AS HENRY MOUNTS THE STAIRS TO HIS HOME, TENSION FALLS AWAY FROM HIM! EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT NOW.. HE'S HOME ....!

THAT PICTURE ... IT USED TO BE MY PICTURE! THIS MORNING IT WAS MY PICTURE ... LAST NIGHT IT WAS... BUT NOW IT ISN'T MY PICTURE ... IT'S THE PHOTO OF A STRANGER!
GIVE ME THE POLICE ... HURRY! THERE'S A MADMAN HERE ....!

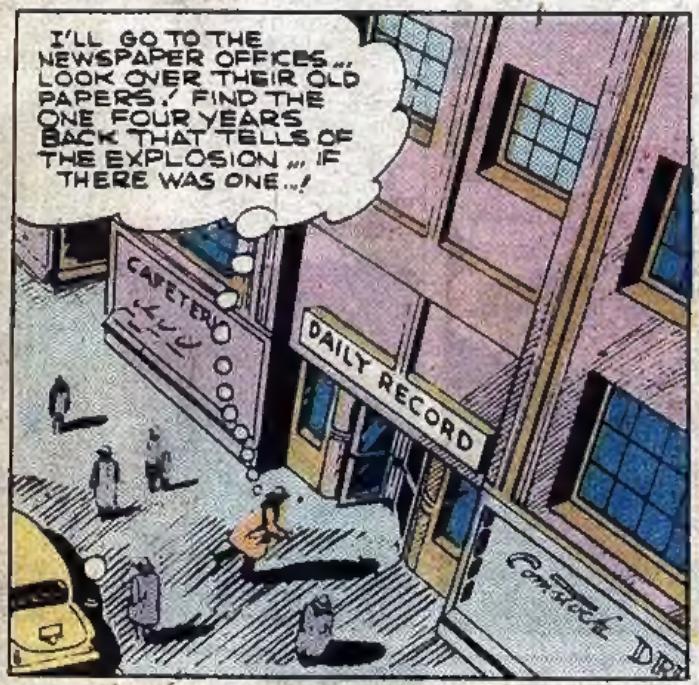
THIS IS MORE THAN HE CAN STAND... HE RUNS AWAY, OUT INTO THE DARKENING STREETS....!

MY OWN WIFE ... MY CHILDREN... NO ONE KNOWS ME! I DIED FOUR YEARS AGO ... BUT THE HENRY JOHNSON WHO DIED WASN'T ME .... IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE ... AND FOUR YEARS AGO WAS LAST NIGHT! THE DATE ON THAT PAPER SAYS IT WAS LAST NIGHT....!

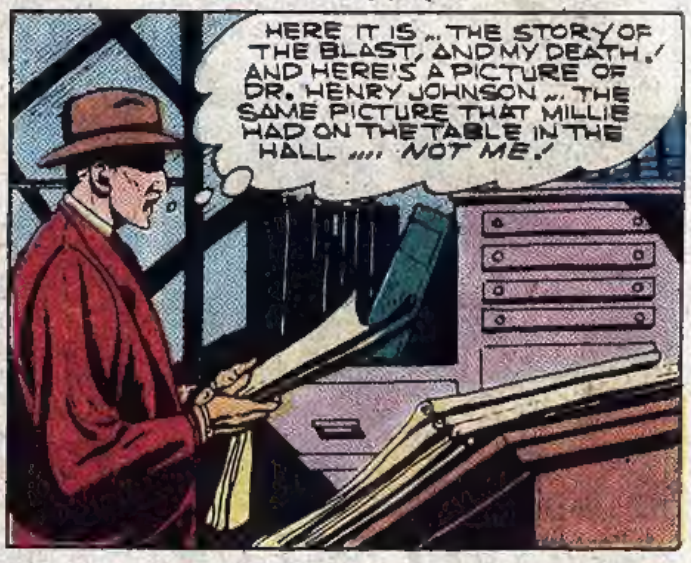
HENRY LOOKS AT THE DATE ON THE PAPER AGAIN...THE ONLY THING HE HAS PROVING THAT FOUR YEARS HAVEN'T VANISHED!

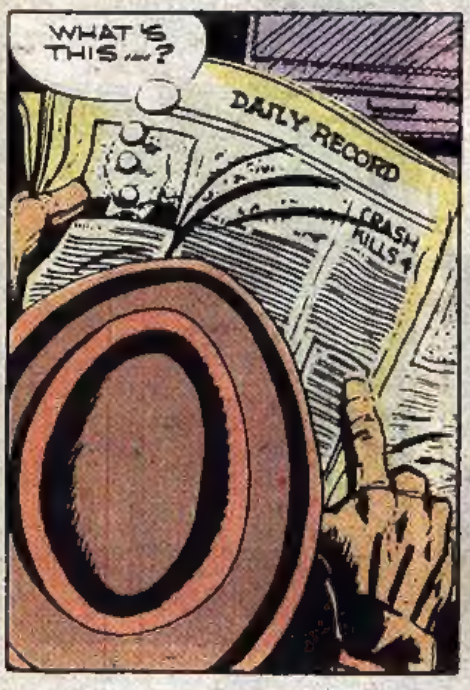

SCIENTIST'S TOT LOOKS FOR LITTLE MAN...
The small son of Paul Erskine, formerly with the Millidale Found was found wandering the streets last night! When questioned by policeman, he said he was on y to his dad's laboratory to Dr. Johnson's 'LITTLE MAN'. child was evidently referring Henry Jonnson, killed when foundation building blew up four years ago! Who the 'LITTLE MAN' is no one s to

PAUL'S SON .... LOOKING FOR MY "LITTLE MAN"... THE TINY LIVING MAN I CREATED OUT OF INORGANIC MATTER! I'M NOT CRAZY... I AM HENRY JOHNSON, AND I DID FIND THE SECRET OF LIFE! SOMETHING'S TERRIBLY WRONG.... BUT IT'S NOT ME!


I'LL GO TO THE NEWSPAPER OFFICES ... LOOK OVER THEIR OLD PAPERS! FIND THE ONE FOUR YEARS BACK THAT TELLS OF THE EXPLOSION ... IF THERE WAS ONE ...!
CAFETERIA
DAILY RECORD

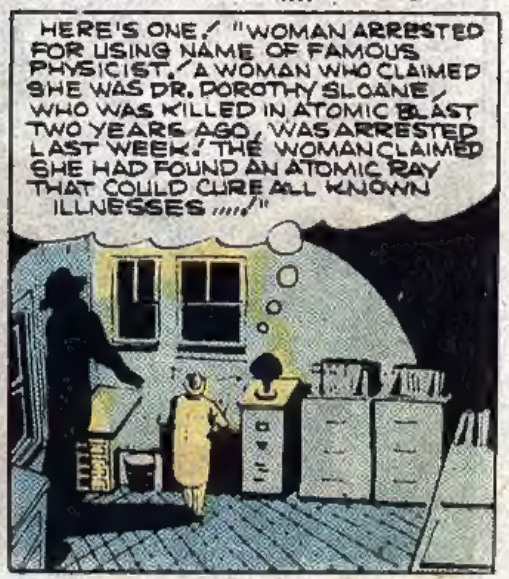
HENRY'S IN THE MORGUE OF THE NEWSPAPER OFFICE NOW! SURROUNDED BY DEAD NEWS FROM THE PAST! HE'S GOING THROUGH THE PAPERS OF FOUR YEARS AGO ..... THERE, HE'S FOUND THE ONE HE WANTS .....!


HERE IT IS ... THE STORY OF THE BLAST, AND MY DEATH! AND HERE'S A PICTURE OF DR. HENRY JOHNSON ... THE SAME PICTURE THAT MILLIE HAD ON THE TABLE IN THE HALL ..... NOT ME!



" JOHN BANCROFT RELEASED FROM ASYLUM .. STILL INSISTS HE IS THE FAMOUS ROCKET EXPERT OF THE SAME NAME WHO DIED SEVERAL YEARS AGO! BANCROFT CLAIMED HE HAD SUCCESSFULLY FLOWN TO MARS ...!"

SYSTEMATICALLY HENRY GOES THROUGH THE PAPERS, LOOKING FOR SMALL HUMAN INTEREST ITEMS .....

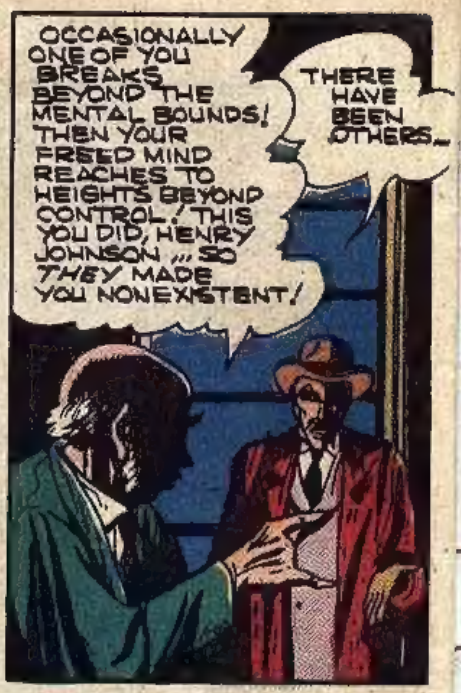

HERE'S ONE! "WOMAN ARRESTED FOR USING NAME OF FAMOUS PHYSICIST." A WOMAN WHO CLAIMED SHE WAS DR. DOROTHY SLOANE, WHO WAS KILLED IN ATOMIC BLAST TWO YEARS AGO, WAS ARRESTED LAST WEEK! THE WOMAN CLAIMED SHE HAD FOUND AN ATOMIC RAY THAT COULD CURE ALL KNOWN ILLNESSES .....!"

CASES SIMILAR TO MINE! MAYBE THESE PEOPLE AREN'T ANY CRAZIER THAN I AM! PERHAPS THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO THEM THAT IS HAPPENING TO ME NOW! MAYBE IT'S HAPPENED TO OTHER PEOPLE, TOO .....

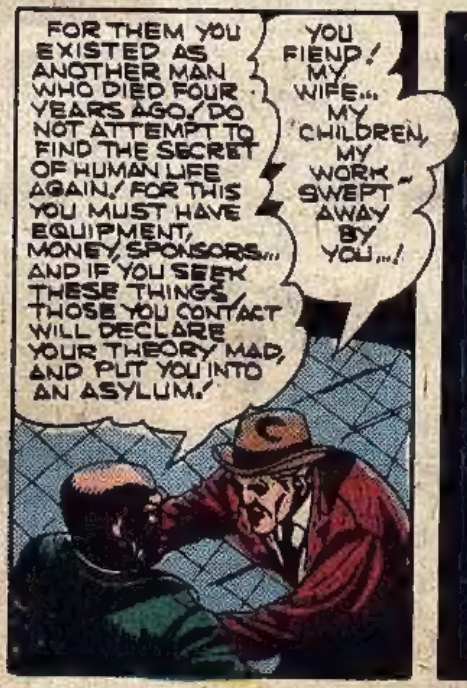
ANOTHER ONE – TWO YEARS AGO .... A MAN CLAIMING TO BE THE DEAD PROFESSOR ADOLPH KLIEN, WHO SAYS HE CAN'T FIND HIS LABORATORY WHERE HE HAD SUCCESSFULLY BUILT A TIME MACHINE TO TRAVEL INTO THE PAST OR FUTURE ...!
HENRY JOHNSON!

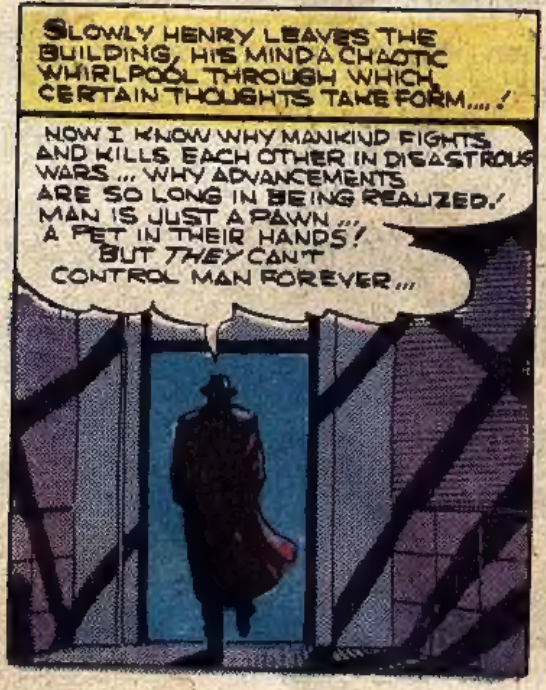
YOU— YOU CALLED ME BY MY NAME!. YOU KNOW I'M HENRY JOHNSON!
YES, YOU ARE HENRY JOHNSON! BUT NO ONE ELSE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE BECAUSE THEY HAVE MADE YOU NONEXISTENT ... WIPED YOU FROM MEN'S MINDS AND PUT ANOTHER IN YOUR PLACE!

THEY? WHO ARE THEY? WHY DID THEY DO THIS TO ME?
THEY ARE THE RULERS, WHO LIVE BESIDE YOU EARTHLINGS, BUT IN ANOTHER DIMENSION! THEY USE EARTH AS A LABORATORY, WATCHING THE INHABITANTS, AND GUIDING THEM MENTALLY! ONLY SUCH THOUGHTS AS THEY WISH EARTHLINGS TO HAVE, ARE PERMITTED!


OCCASIONALLY ONE OF YOU BREAKS BEYOND THE MENTAL BOUNDS! THEN YOUR FREED MIND REACHES TO HEIGHTS BEYOND CONTROL! THIS YOU DID, HENRY JOHNSON ... SO THEY MADE YOU NONEXISTENT!
THERE HAVE BEEN OTHERS...

YES! ALL ARE NONEXISTENT, AND THE WORK THEY DID WAS BLOTTED FROM MEN'S MINDS! ONLY THUS CAN THEY CONTROL MEN'S MINDS ... AND KEEP THEM SLAVES!
THEN I'LL ALWAYS BE LIKE THIS ... A MAN WHO EXISTS, BUT DOESN'T EXIST! MY WIFE... MY CHILDREN?


FOR THEM YOU EXISTED AS ANOTHER MAN WHO DIED FOUR YEARS AGO! DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIND THE SECRET OF HUMAN LIFE AGAIN! FOR THIS YOU MUST HAVE EQUIPMENT, MONEY, SPONSORS... AND IF YOU SEEK THESE THINGS, THOSE YOU CONTACT WILL DECLARE YOUR THEORY MAD, AND PUT YOU INTO AN ASYLUM!
YOU FIEND! MY WIFE... MY CHILDREN, MY WORK — SWEPT AWAY BY YOU...!


SLOWLY HENRY LEAVES THE BUILDING, HIS MIND A CHAOTIC WHIRLPOOL THROUGH WHICH, CERTAIN THOUGHTS TAKE FORM....!
NOW I KNOW WHY MANKIND FIGHTS AND KILLS EACH OTHER IN DISASTROUS WARS ... WHY ADVANCEMENTS ARE SO LONG IN BEING REALIZED! MAN IS JUST A PAWN ... A PET IN THEIR HANDS! BUT THEY CAN'T CONTROL MAN FOREVER...

THEY CAN'T KEEP MAN IN MENTAL SLAVERY THROUGHOUT TIME! I'LL FIND THE OTHERS... THE SCIENTIST, THE WOMAN DOCTOR, THE ROCKET EXPERT... ALL THE OTHERS WHOM THEY HAVE MADE NONEXISTENT! WE'LL BAND TOGETHER .... FIGHT TO BREAK THE HOLD THEY HAVE ON HUMANITY, AND SOMEDAY MANKIND WILL BE FREE ....!

THE DARKNESS FOLDS AROUND DR. HENRY JOHNSON AND SWALLOWS HIM! WHO KNOWS WHERE HIS GREAT COURAGE AND DETERMINATION WILL LEAD HIM? WHO KNOWS WHAT HE WILL FIND? PERHAPS ONLY THEY KNOW...